

# IDAHO NEWS RELEASE

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## IDAHO RED MEAT PRODUCTION DOWN 4 PERCENT

Commercial red meat production at Idaho packing plants for July 2000 totaled 49.4 million pounds, down 4 percent from last year, according to the Idaho Agricultural Statistics Service. July production was down 6 percent from June's 52.4 million pounds. Accumulated red meat production for the January-July 2000 period totaled 334.0 million pounds, up 4 percent from the comparable period a year earlier.

Red meat production for the United States totaled 3.64 billion pounds in July, down 4 percent from the 3.78 billion pounds produced in July 1999. Beef production, at 2.20 billion pounds, was 2 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.96 million head, down 4 percent from 1999. The average live weight was up 14 pounds from the previous year, at 1,220 pounds. Pork production totaled 1.41 billion pounds, down 5 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 7.36 million head, 7 percent below 1999. The average live weight was 3 pounds above the previous year, at 259 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 16 million pounds, was down 9 percent from the previous record low for July set in 1999. Sheep slaughter totaled 243 thousand head, 8 percent below last year. The average live weight was 130 pounds, down 2 pounds from July a year ago. January-July red meat production was 26.5 billion pounds, just below the comparable figure a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was 2 percent higher than last year, pork was 3 percent lower and lamb & mutton was down 2 percent.

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